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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Switzerland

SUBJECT Swiss Military and Optical Instruments for the
Satellites

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1. The Wilds Geodätische Instrumente firm is steadily shipping military, optical and microphotographic apparatus to Hungary, Rumania, Czechoslovakia and Poland. It has not been established that there are direct deliveries to the USSR.
2. The firm is headed by Henri Wild of St. Gall. The business is in Heerbrugg in St. Gall Canton. In international dealings the firm is called Henry Wild Surveying Instruments Supply Co., Ltd. It handles optical and mechanical instruments of all types. The managing president is Jakob Schmidheiny of Balgach; his representative is Albert Schmidheini of St. Gall; directors are Max Kreis of Egnach and Dr. Arnold Semadeni of Poschiavo; purchasing agents are Edwin Berchtold of Wintherthur, Theodor Oettli of Bern and Walter Wetsch of Grabs.
3. There are 1,500 workers in the factory. Examination of details reveals that without the income from export to the satellite countries the firm would have long since been bankrupt. The delivery of its products is carefully prepared and so camouflaged that any given observer could only obtain the most minor details on the operation. At the factory it is strictly forbidden for strangers to enter, and even the workers can only go into sections where they have business.
4. Cartographic instruments in quantity are produced with Polish and Czech lettering.
5. The firm recently completed an order for the Swiss Army for about 5,000 telescopic sights for machine guns.
6. Large quantities of photographic mapping apparatus for airplanes are produced and 80 to 90 percent of them are exported. All the apparatus produced is very expensive, and the firm demands payment in dollars or Swiss francs.

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